SCECGS Redlands

Senior School

Festival of Lessons and Carols

St Andrew's Cathedral

Monday, 9 December 1996

(The congregation is asked to join in all parts of the service written in bold print).

PROCESSIONAL: "TRUMPET VOLUNTARY" - J. Stanley.
(Please stand) Organ: P de Lasala Esq.

WELCOME and BIDDING PRAYER: The Reverend Bill France, School Chaplain.

Heavenly Father, as we gather this Christmas time, make clear to us again
the true meaning of Christ's coming to earth so long ago;
that we may understand the greatness of his love,
receive and enjoy his forgiveness,
know the power of his living presence,
and rejoice in the hope of his coming kingdom.

As we give thanks for the gift of your Son, Jesus Christ,
whose birth we now prepare to celebrate,
may our hearts and homes always be open to him,
that he may live with us forever,
and that we may serve him all our lives.

The angels sang when Christ was born and so must we.
With thankful hearts we celebrate his birth.
With all of creation we say:
Glory to God in the highest!

And so as we hear again the Christmas story in word and song,
refresh and renew us through this reminder of your love,
and ever make us conscious of the need to love others,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

CAROL: "ANGELS FROM THE REALMS OF GLORY"
(Please stand) Carols Chamber Orchestra.
Organ: P de Lasala Esq.

Angels, from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
you, who sang creation's story,
now proclaim Messiah's birth:

come and worship
Christ, the newborn King,
come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn King.

Shepherds, in the field abiding,
watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with man is now residing;
yonder shines the infant Light:

come and worship
Christ, the newborn King,
come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn King.

Wise men, leave your contemplations,
brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great Desire of nations,
you have seen his natal star:

come and worship
Christ, the newborn King,
come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn King.

Saints, before the altar bending,
watching long in hope and fear,
suddenly the Lord descending,
in his temple shall appear:

come and worship
Christ, the newborn King,
come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn King.

(Please be seated)

NARRATION: Christ's birth a part of God's plan - the promise of His coming.
Read by Miss Andrea Livanes, Form 11.

The story of Jesus began with the creation of the world. God made the world and appointed Jesus as king of all the earth. But the people decided that they did not want to do what God said, and decided to try and run the earth their way. Even though they made a mess of it, most of them rejected the messengers that God sent warning them to stop doing what was wrong. God knew what he was going to do. He was going to send Jesus to earth as a human to show us what God was really like, to show us how to live the right way, and to open up the way back into friendship with Himself. Hundreds of years before it happened, God promised that Jesus would be born as boy prince within the royal family line.

FIRST LESSON: Isaiah - Chapter 9 verses 2-7.
Read by Master George Eapen, Form 12.

CAROL: "THE FIRST NOWELL"
(Please stand) Carols Chamber Orchestra.
Organ: P de Lasala Esq.

The first Nowell the angel did say,
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep:

Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
Born is the King of Israel.

When they looked up they saw a star
shining in the east, beyond them far,
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night:

Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
Born is the King of Israel.

And by the light of that same star
three wise men came from country far:
to seek for a king was their intent,
and to follow the star wherever it went:

Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
Born is the King of Israel.

This star drew nigh to the north-west;
over Bethlehem it took its rest,
and there did both stop and stay it
right over the place where Jesus lay:

Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
Born is the King of Israel.

Now let us all with one accord
sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
who brought forth heaven and earth from nought,
and with his blood mankind has bought:

Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
Born is the King of Israel.

(Please be seated)

NARRATION: The Birth of Christ.
Read by Miss Lisa Callaghan, Form 8.

Jesus was born in Palestine at a time when the Romans ruled that part of the world. God's people longed that the promised King would come and lead them to victory over the Romans. That their king should be born in a stable in a relatively out of the way town like Bethlehem was totally unexpected. God did this to show that Jesus was not to be thought of as a king in the ordinary sense, but was special. He was to be a King for all people, and forever, and not just a ruler of the Jews. If it had not been for the messages from the angels, and the miraculous guiding star, nobody would have known he had been born.

(Please remain seated)

ANTHEM: "MARY'S BOY CHILD" - Words and Music by Jester Hairston.
Master Jae Pil Han - Form 12, 1996.
Carols Chamber Orchestra.
Pianoforte: R. Moore Esq.

SECOND LESSON: St Luke - Chapter 1 verses 26-38.
Read by Master Simon Levett, Form 11.

OFFERTORY CAROL: "ONCE IN ROYAL DAVID'S CITY"
(Please stand) Carols Chamber Orchestra.
Organ: P de Lasala Esq.

Once in royal David's city, stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby, in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ, her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven, who is God and Lord of all;
and his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall:
with the poor and meek and lowly, lived on earth our Saviour holy.

And through all his wondrous childhood, day by day like us he grew;
he was little, weak, and helpless, tears and smiles like us he knew;
and he feeleth for our sadness, and he shareth in our gladness.

And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love,
for that child, so dear and gentle, is our Lord in heaven above:
and he leads his children on, to the place where he has gone.

Not in that poor lowly stable, with the oxen standing by,
we shall see him, but in heaven, set at God's right hand on high:
there his children gather round, bright like stars, with glory crowned.

(Please be seated following the presentation of the Offertory.)

THIRD LESSON: St Luke - Chapter 2 verses 1-20
Read by Miss Carla Dunn and Master Ben Edwards, Form 10.

CAROL: "O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM"
(Please stand) Carols Chamber Orchestra.
Organ: P de Lasala Esq.

O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by:
yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting Light;
the hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.

O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the King
and peace to men on earth;
for Christ is born of Mary;
and, gathered all above,
while mortal sleep the angels keep
their watch of wondering love.

How silently, how silently
the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming;
but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still
the dear Christ enters in.

O holy child of Bethlehem,
descend to us we pray;
cast out our sin and enter in,
be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Emmanuel.

(Please be seated)

NARRATION: The purpose of Jesus being born as a human being.
Read by Miss Elisha Oliver, Form 9.

God did not plan for Jesus to remain a baby forever. Jesus grew up like everybody else, and as a man he not only taught people about God, and how God wanted people to live, but the way he treated people and cared for them was exactly the way God would do it. As important as this is we must never forget that the most important reason that Jesus became a human being was so that he could die on the cross. By dying on the cross, Jesus took the punishment we deserve for the things we have done wrong. This means that we can now be forgiven by God if we really want to be.

FOURTH LESSON: St John - Chapter 1 verses 1-12.
Read by Master Daniel Colless, Form 12

CAROL: "WHILE SHEPHERDS WATCHED THEIR FLOCKS"
(Please stand) Carols Chamber Orchestra.
Organ: P de Lasala Esq.

While shepherds watched their flocks by night,
all seated on the ground,
the angel of the Lord came down
and glory shone around.

"Fear not," said he (for mighty dread
had seized their troubled mind),
"glad tidings of great joy I bring
to you and all mankind

To you in David's town this day
is born of David's line
a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord,
and this shall be the sign:

The heavenly babe you there shall find
to human view displayed,
all meanly wrapped in swaddling clothes
and in a manger laid."

Thus spake the seraph; and forthwith
appeared a shining throng
of angels praising God, who thus
addressed their joyful song:

"All glory be to God on high,
and to the earth be peace;
goodwill henceforth from heaven to men
begin and never cease."

(Please be seated)

FIFTH LESSON: St John - Chapter 3 verses 16-21.
Read by Miss Rebecca Moon, Form 12.

ANTHEM: " ' Neath Southern Skies" by C. Brumby
Carols Choir.
Conductor: Mrs A. Jameson.
Pianforte: R. Moore Esq.

CAROL: "HARK THE HERALD ANGELS SING"
(Please stand) Carols Chamber Orchestra.
Organ: P de Lasala Esq.

Hark! the herald angels sing
glory to the newborn king,
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled.
Joyful, all ye nations, rise
Join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim,
'Christ is born in Bethlehem,:

Hark! the herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn king.

Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
offspring of a virgin's womb!
veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
hail the incarnate Deity!
Pleased as Man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel:

Hark! the herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn king.

Mild he lays his glory by,
born that man no more may die,
born to raise the sons of earth,
born to give them second birth.
Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in his wings:

Hark! the herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn king.

NARRATION: How God would like us to celebrate Christmas.
Read by Miss Amelia Ramsden, Form 11.

There is no doubt that getting presents is a lot of fun, and that Christmas is a great time for families to spend some special time together. But if we really have understood what Christmas is all about, we will also be saying a big "Thank you" to God for the gift of his Son. We will also be trying to live the way Jesus lived, every day of our lives. This will mean not being selfish; it will mean taking time to help and care for others even when it's inconvenient; it will mean standing up for what is true and fair even if others may not support us. We will also be looking forward to the time when God's plan is completed and Jesus comes back to make our world a perfect place, and we will live with him as our King forever.

SIXTH LESSON: Philippians - Chapter 2 verses 3 - 11.
Read by P J Cornish Esq., Executive Headmaster.

ANTHEM: "SILENT NIGHT" - Traditional
Carols Chamber Orchestra
Organ: P. de Lasala Esq.
Soloist: Miss Amelia Cormack, Form 12

PRAYERS:

A Prayer for families	Read by Master Robert Clark, Form 8.
A Prayer for our community	Read by Miss Felicity Stafford, Form 12.
A Prayer for the world	Read by Master Matthew Mohl, Form 9.
A Prayer of thanksgiving	Read by Master Guy Richards, Form 11.

RESPONSE OF PRAISE: The Reverend Robyn Fry, Second Chaplain.
(Please join in the words in bold print)

Glory to God in the highest.

And on earth peace between God and people.

Heavenly Father, in what you have done for us through your Son, Jesus Christ,
you have shown yourself to be a loving and merciful creator
who will do all that is possible to mend the relationship with your children.

May your Spirit so work within us that we will be honest enough to admit the sins we have committed, humble enough to apologise and ask your forgiveness, sincere enough to seek, with your help, to change our ways.

Through the birth of Jesus, God has come alongside all people that we might know him as children know their Father.

We thank you for the gift of your Son, and ask for open hearts to receive him as Saviour and Lord.

Father Almighty, we acknowledge your greatness in songs of never-ending praise:

Blessing and honour and glory and power are yours for ever and ever. Amen.

BENEDICTION: The Reverend Bill France.

RECESSIONAL CAROL: "JOY TO THE WORLD"
(Please stand) Carols Chamber Orchestra.
Organ: P de Lasala Esq.

**Joy to the world! The Lord is come;
let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.**

**Joy to the world! The Saviour reigns;
let men their song employ;
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy.
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.**

POSTLUDE: "GRAND CHOEUR" - Beauvarlet - Charpentier
Organ: P. de Lasala Esq.

(Please remain standing until the clergy have recessed)

CAROLS CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

Violin I:	Miss A. Heike (Leader)	Form 10
	Master N. Sellheim	Form 11
	Miss A. Livanes	Form 11
Violin II:	Miss T. Wan	Form 8
	Master P. Livanes	Form 9
	Master D. Livanes	Form 8
Viola:	Miss S. Barry	Form 12
	Miss R. Moon	Form 12
Cello:	Miss S. Smith	Form 11
	Miss E. Dupont-Brown	Form 11

Carols Chamber Orchestra conducted by R. Moore Esq.

.....

CAROLS CHOIR

Led by R. Moore Esq. and Mrs A. Jameson.